THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) The Government is aware of the increased use of Improved Explosive Devices (IEDs)/landmine blasts by the naxalites;

(b) and (c) Central forces deployed in naxal-affected States on anti-naxalite duty have been given/sanctioned mine protected vehicles (MPVs). These forces also use MPVs available with the States as they conduct operations jointly with the State Police.

(d) As per available information, one MPV was damaged and 44 CRPF personnel were killed in landmine/IED blasts during the current year (upto 13.12.2005).

(e) The supply of Mine Protected Vehicles from the Ordnance Factory at Medak has been streamlined. Besides, the States have been advised to closely monitor with the Ordnance Factory and take steps to ensure speedy collection of these vehicles.

Ex- Servicemen's corporation for Chandigarh

3097. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether like the State of Punjab, the Union Territory of Chandigarh does not have an Ex-servicemen's Corporation as on date;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter regarding setting up of Ex-servicemen Corporation at Chandigarh was considered by the Chandigarh Administration in 1994 and it was felt that there is no need for setting up of such a Corporation for ex-servicemen in Chandigarh.

(c) There is no proposal at present under consideration of the Administration for setting up of an Ex-servicemen Corporation in Chandigarh.